

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A receiving apparatus comprising:
reception means which receives plural contents
data via a network;
5 contents processing means which processes the
contents data received by the reception means to
generate video data;
output means which outputs the video data to a
display apparatus; and
10 control means which estimates a time until each
of the plural contents data becomes audio visually
enjoyable and controls the output means so as to
output information on the estimated time in
association with the corresponding plural contents
15 data.
2. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the control means detects at least one
of a first time required for a procedure for
20 connecting to a distribution source of the contents
data and a second time required for receiving a
predetermined amount of the contents data, and
controls the output means so as to output information
on at least one of the first time and the second time
25 or a total time of the first time and the second time.
3. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the control means compares the detected times with a predetermined threshold value and controls the output means so as to display a result of the comparison.

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4. A receiving apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the control means compares the detected time with plural threshold values, which are different from each other.

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5. A receiving apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control means controls the reception means so as to sequentially execute processing for connection to a distribution destination of the respective contents data and detects the first time and the second time based upon the processing for connection.

20 6. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means judges that reception is impossible in the case in which a time required for a procedure for connection to a distribution destination of the contents data has exceeded a predetermined time, and controls the output means to display information indicating to that effect.

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7. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the control means judges that reception is impossible in the case in which a time required for a procedure for receiving a predetermined amount of the contents data has exceeded a predetermined
5 time, and controls the output means to display information indicating to that effect.

8. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the reception means is capable of
10 receiving N pieces of the contents data in parallel with each other, and the control means detects the time for the N pieces of the contents data in parallel with each other, which are received by the reception means in parallel with each other among the
15 plural contents data.

9. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the control means controls the output means so as to display the video data while changing
20 an order of display of program names based on a length of the detected time.

10. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the reception means has storage means
25 which is capable of storing a predetermined amount of the N pieces of the contents data, respectively, and the control means controls the reception means so as

to store the predetermined N pieces of the contents data among the plural contents data in the storage means.

5 11. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
 wherein the control means executes estimation
processing of the time again according to an
instruction to stop reception of selected contents
data.

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 12. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
 wherein the reception means further receives
contents list data indicating the plural contents
data from a predetermined distribution source via the
15 network, and the control means estimates a time until
each of the contents data indicated in the contents
list data becomes audio visually enjoyable.

 13. A receiving apparatus according to claim 12,
20 wherein the contents list data includes
information indicating a connection destination for
receiving the plural contents data.

 14. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
25 wherein the control means detects whether or
not a connection procedure to a distribution source
of the contents data has been completed within a

predetermined time.

15. A receiving apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the time is estimated based upon a
5 transfer rate of detected data.

16. A receiving method comprising:
a reception step which receives plural contents
data via a network;
10 a contents processing step which processes the
contents data received in the reception step to
generate video data;
an output step which outputs the video data to
a display apparatus; and
15 a control step which estimates a time until
each of the plural contents data becomes audio
visually enjoyable and controls the output step so as
to output information on the estimated time in
association with the corresponding plural contents
20 data.